

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 37-41 are pending in this application.

In connection with independent claim 1, applicant asserts that the prior art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest of the coupler comprising a pair of resilient hooks disposed in an overlapping state forming a continuous loop in which a lure is engagable to the coupler by forcing the hooks apart and threading one of the hooks into and through a hook eye of the lure.

In connection with independent claim 37, applicant asserts that the prior art of record fails to teach or reasonably suggest of the coupler comprising a pair of opposing plates biased together and prongs carried by and between the plates capable of securing a hook eye of a lure.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all of the claims presently pending in this case are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Serial Number: 09/ 5502  
Art Unit: 3643

Examiner's thorough and thoughtful consideration of this application is sincerely appreciated. Should there be any remaining issues, Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned for a speedy resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael W. Goltry', written over the typed name.

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